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demarcation line. Integral part invitation would be statement invitees would be absolutely free and would in fact be encouraged to get full picture on both sides. We recognize this might involve some risk because slogans and terminology of East Germans might make special impression on some neutrals, but believe on balance advantage would clearly lie with West Berlin particularly if reception of group or groups were really well prepared. (We assume this would rule out visits until sometime after elections.) Among African opinion leaders fair proportion would doubtless embark upon trip with favorable disposition toward West Berlin's case, which might also rub off on others.

While invitation and reception would of course have to be entirely West Berlin show, we would think it no handicap politically (at least as far as Africans are concerned) if we offered support in terms air transportation for invitees since all would be aware from beginning that US completely supports FRG position on Berlin issue. In this manner trips might be handled as package tours taking minimum of time, which in turn should enable number of otherwise unavailable key Afro-Asian opinion leaders to be brought to Berlin. To be successful, such project would have to have also understanding and support of UK and France especially in case of African countries where they have special interests.

Your comments on this idea invited.

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(WST)

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